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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

A Monthly Report by the NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
Prepared in Coordination with the UNITED STATES BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS

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August Unemployment Rate Rises to 3.6 Percent, Up 0.4 Percent From July; Unemployment Rate Up From 2.6 Percent A Year Earlier

The unemployment rate in August rose to 3.6 percent of the civilian labor force. While this is still a relatively low unemployment rate, it is notable that the unemployment rate in New Hampshire rose from July to August. Normally the unemployment rate drops over this time period. However, this year, the labor force continued to expand slightly (+1,070) between the two months, while employment dropped (-1,240). The result was a significant increase in the number of unemployed workers (+2,310 over the month). This generated the higher unemployment rate.

National Unemployment Rate Continues Drop; 5.1 Percent in August

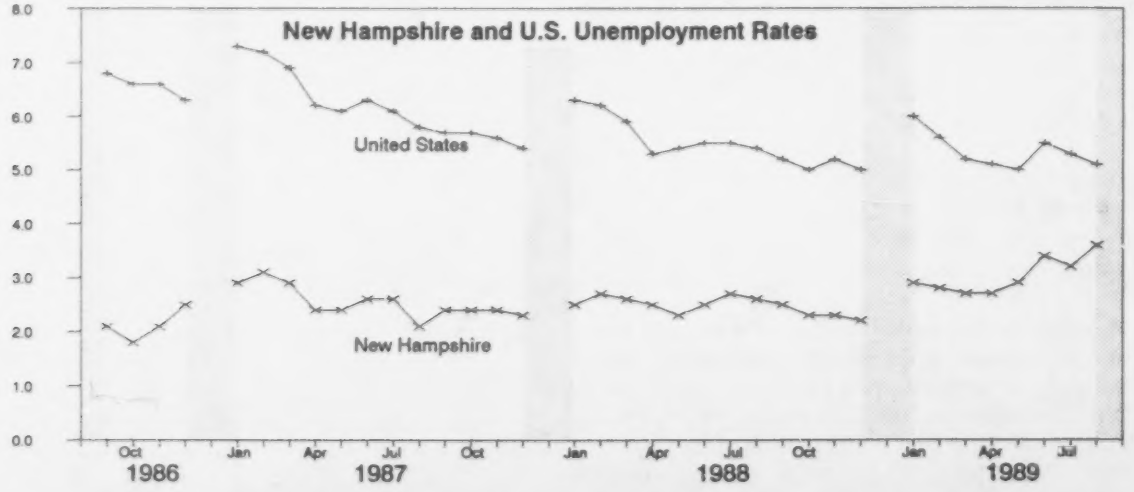
The civilian labor force dropped slightly to 125,444,000 in August, down 794,000 from July levels. Employment levels fell from 119,502,000 in July to 119,092,000 in August, a decline of 410,000. Unemployment went down from 6,736,000 to 6,352,000, a drop of 384,000. This produced an unemployment rate of 5.1 percent in August (not-seasonally-adjusted), compared to 5.3 percent in July.

Compared to a year earlier (August 1988), the civilian labor force has increased by 2,048,000; employment has increased by 2,355,000; and unemployment has decreased by 307,000. The unemployment rate over the twelve months has dropped from 5.4 percent to 5.1 percent. The national economy continues to show strength. Every month in 1989 has exhibited a lower unemployment rate than the corresponding month in 1988 (except for June, when the unemployment rate was the same in both years).

Employment Trends in New Hampshire

Estimates of current nonagricultural wage and salary employment, based on a matched monthly sample of employers in New Hampshire, were pegged at 534,950 in August. This was 3,550 above revised July employment estimates (531,400; original July estimates totaled 532,500).

The increases in nonfarm employment over the month were caused by the end of vacation shutdowns in the manufacturing sector. The sector added 3,900 employees from July levels. This type of increase is normal for the July-to-August period. The manufacturing employment increase was split fairly evenly between durable goods industries (+1,800) and nondurable goods industries (+2,100). Nonmanufacturing employment dropped a small amount (-350) over the month. This was the result of mixed changes, with declines in government, services, and transportation, communica-



Notes: These unemployment rates were calculated using the new methodology adopted in January 1989. They are not directly comparable to monthly rates published prior to that time.

Although monthly changes are included in this publication, it should be noted that these figures are not seasonally adjusted. Over-the-month comparisons may be affected by seasonal changes and thus could present misleading representation of underlying trends. To eliminate bias, it is more useful to compare any non-seasonally-adjusted statistic with that of twelve months earlier

tion, and utilities partly offset by increases in construction and trade employment.

Over the year, estimated nonfarm employment has risen by 1,000. There has been some continued erosion of manufacturing employment. August 1989 manufacturing employment was 2,150 below levels in August 1988. About three-quarters of this drop was in durable goods employment (-1,700). Within durable goods categories, the electrical products industry suffered the greatest estimated decline (-850) from levels of a year ago. Lumber and wood products (-300) and machinery, except electrical (-200) followed. The rest of the manufacturing decline (-450) was in nondurable goods industries. The largest nondurable goods decline was in the leather and leather products industry (-250).

Nonmanufacturing employment has grown by an estimated 3,150 jobs over the year. Services industries employment (+3,350) has added the most employment, followed by wholesale and retail trade industries (+1,950) and government (+1,500). Construction employment continues to lag seriously behind levels of a year earlier. It has dropped from an estimated 41,050 in August 1988 to 36,850 in August 1980 (-4,200; -10.2%).

Labor Market Area Unemployment Trends

Unemployment rate increases occurred in eight labor market areas from July to August. Four areas registered declines in their unemployment rates. The largest increases were found in the southeastern section of the state along the Massachusetts border. The Nashua Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA) saw its unemployment rate change by +1.0 percentage points; the Salem area (New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, MA PMSA) rose by 1.6 percentage points; Pelham (New Hampshire portion of the Lowell, MA PMSA) went up 2.4 percentage points; the Unattached Estimating Area, which contains some towns bordering either the Nashua PMSA or the New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill PMSA, had its unemployment rate rise by 0.7 percentage points. Many individuals living in these areas commute to jobs in Massachusetts, and are affected by recent layoffs in that state.

The largest unemployment rate drop over the month happened in the Berlin Labor Market Area (LMA) (-0.9 percentage points). This was due primarily to post-vacation manufacturing recalls and late summer tourist activity.

The Claremont labor market area had the lowest unemployment rate in August (2.2 percent). The Berlin LMA followed with 2.4 percent, while the Keene LMA had 2.5 percent. The highest area rate, 6.5 percent, was found in the Salem area (the New Hampshire portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, MA PMSA). [The New Hampshire portion of the Lowell, MA PMSA, which is the town of Pelham, had a 7.6 percent unemployment rate, but represents a very small area. It is more useful to compare unemployment rates for areas larger in population and size.]

Compared to August 1988 levels, all areas in the state have experienced increases in unemployment rates. There is no consistent pattern in the increases. The smallest increase over the year has occurred in the Claremont LMA (+0.4 percentage points), while the largest increase (excluding Pelham) was in the Salem region (+1.7 percentage points). The Laconia and Concord LMA's each increased by 1.3 percentage points.

Hawaii Has Lowest July Unemployment Rate in Nation; New Hampshire Tied for Second Lowest

Hawaii registered the lowest unemployment rate in the nation in July, with a 2.4 percent rate. New Hampshire and Virginia tied for second lowest rate; both states had 3.2 percent unemployment rates. In the region, following New Hampshire, Connecticut and Maine had 3.4 percent unemployment; Vermont, 3.7 percent; Rhode Island, 3.9 percent; and Massachusetts, 4.6 percent. Louisiana had the highest unemployment rate in July, 9.7 percent.

Average Weekly Hours Up in Manufacturing As Normal Schedules Resume; Average Hourly Earnings Stable

Production workers in New Hampshire manufacturing industries worked a longer workweek during August than in July. Weekly hours averaged 40.6 in August compared to 40.2 in July, an increase of 0.4 hours per week. Production worker hours in July are typically affected by vacation shutdowns and slowdowns in production. Average hourly earnings were virtually constant, dropping from $10.19 to $10.17 over the month. This stability, along with higher average weekly hours, caused average weekly earnings to go up. Average weekly earnings in August were $412.90 compared to $409.64 in July, an increase of $3.26.

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October 1989

Highest average hourly earnings were estimated for the Food and Kindred Products industry ($14.03) in the non-durable goods sector. Highest average weekly earnings ($582.25) were in the same industry. Average weekly hours were greatest in the Primary Metal Products industry (45.7 hours) in the durable goods sector.

Bruce DeMay

TOTAL UNEMPLOYMENT AND LABOR FORCE BY AREA AND COUNTY*

	UNEMPLOYMENT								CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE				
	August 1989		July 1989		August 1988		Numerical Change From Previous:		August	July	August	Numerical Change From Previous:	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Number	Rate	Month	Year	1989	1989	1988	Month	Year
United States**	6,352	5.1	6,736	5.3	6,659	5.4	(384)	(307)	125,444	126,239	123,396	(794)	2,048
New Hampshire	22,790	3.6	20,480	3.2	16,200	2.6	2,310	6,590	639,640	638,570	619,610	1,070	20,030
Berlin LMA	700	2.4	1,030	3.5	410	1.5	(330)	290	28,780	29,240	27,340	(460)	1,420
Claremont LMA	990	2.2	1,090	2.5	750	1.8	(100)	240	44,190	44,290	41,690	(100)	2,500
Concord LMA	2,140	3.7	1,690	2.9	1,330	2.4	450	810	57,930	57,840	55,380	90	2,550
Keene LMA	1,140	2.5	930	2.1	630	1.5	210	510	45,220	45,150	42,340	70	2,880
Laconia LMA	1,900	2.9	2,050	3.2	990	1.6	(150)	910	64,440	64,780	60,350	(320)	4,090
Littleton LMA	610	2.6	510	2.4	360	1.7	100	250	21,550	21,600	20,620	(50)	930
Manchester MSA	2,830	3.3	2,690	3.1	2,250	2.6	140	580	86,750	86,460	85,830	290	920
Nashua PMSA	4,100	4.1	3,110	3.1	3,330	3.3	990	770	100,130	99,720	99,600	410	530
NH portion Lawrence-Haverhill, Ma PMSA***	3,500	6.5	2,610	4.9	2,520	4.8	890	980	53,930	53,150	52,170	150	1,590
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester NH+Me MSA	3,570	2.6	3,770	2.7	2,740	2.0	(200)	830	137,980	137,770	137,860	110	0
Unattached Estimating Area	1,140	4.9	980	4.2	770	3.5	150	370	23,480	23,330	21,890	150	1,590
NH portion Lowell Ma PMSA	430	7.6	290	5.2	310	5.8	140	120	5,650	5,530	5,370	120	280
Counties													
Belknap	1,010	3.0	1,110	3.3	490	1.6	(100)	520	33,140	33,340	31,020	(200)	2,120
Carroll	570	2.6	490	2.3	350	1.7	80	220	21,810	21,810	20,430	0	1,160
Cheshire	980	2.4	840	2.1	570	1.5	120	390	40,240	40,250	37,740	(10)	2,500
Coos	590	2.6	980	4.2	400	1.9	(370)	190	22,540	23,030	21,500	(490)	1,040
Grafton	1,170	2.5	1,080	2.3	700	1.6	80	470	47,270	47,340	44,730	(70)	2,540
Hillsborough	7,580	4.0	5,980	3.2	5,740	3.1	1,830	1,850	189,730	188,570	186,780	1,160	2,950
Merrimack	2,210	3.2	2,010	2.9	1,520	2.3	200	690	69,930	70,040	67,050	(110)	2,880
Rockingham	6,170	4.7	4,820	3.7	4,420	3.5	1,350	1,750	130,700	129,400	127,570	1,300	3,130
Strafford	1,950	3.2	2,450	3.9	1,560	2.5	(500)	390	61,880	62,230	61,490	(340)	400
Sullivan	570	2.5	750	3.3	450	2.1	(180)	120	22,560	22,780	21,300	(180)	1,260

* *NH estimates based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics "43 step handbook method" adjusted to the Current Population Survey (CPS) estimates.*

** *In thousands, not seasonally adjusted.*

*** *New Hampshire Portion of the Lawrence-Haverhill, Massachusetts Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area which includes Salem and twelve small towns.*

Note: Negative numbers in parentheses

NEW HAMPSHIRE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

	Number of Workers			Numerical Change * From Previous:	
	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	Month	Year
Labor Force Data **					
Civilian Labor Force	639,640	638,570	619,610	1,070	20,030
Unemployment	22,790	20,480	16,200	2,310	6,590
Percent of Labor Force	3.6	3.2	2.6	—	—
Employment Total	616,850	618,090	603,310	(1,240)	13,540
Persons involved in Labor Disputes	0	0	100	0	(100)
Employment by Industry ***					
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT	534,950	531,400	533,950	3,550	1,000
MANUFACTURING	116,800	112,900	118,950	3,900	(2,150)
Durable Goods	81,500	79,700	83,200	1,800	(1,700)
Lumber and wood products	5,800	5,150	6,100	650	(300)
Furniture and fixtures	1,350	1,300	1,500	50	(150)
Stone and clay products	3,550	3,500	3,550	50	0
Primary metal products	4,750	4,850	4,650	(100)	100
Fabricated metal products	6,850	6,700	6,850	150	0
Machinery (except electrical)	25,550	25,300	25,750	250	(200)
Electrical products	22,050	21,700	22,900	350	(850)
Miscellaneous products	2,200	2,000	2,300	200	(100)
Other durable goods	9,400	9,200	9,600	200	(200)
Nondurable Goods	35,300	33,200	35,750	2,100	(450)
Food and kindred products	2,700	2,650	2,800	50	(100)
Textile mill products	3,500	3,050	3,600	450	(100)
Apparel	1,750	1,200	1,700	550	50
Paper and allied products	5,750	5,700	5,700	50	50
Printing, publishing, and allied	8,750	8,800	8,650	(50)	100
Leather and leather products	3,100	2,700	3,350	400	(250)
Other nondurable goods	9,750	9,100	9,950	650	(200)
NONMANUFACTURING	418,150	418,500	415,000	(350)	3,150
Construction (including mining)	36,850	36,600	41,050	250	(4,200)
Transportation, communication, and utilities	17,700	17,800	17,800	(100)	(100)
Trade	141,250	141,000	139,300	250	1,950
Finance, insurance, and real estate	33,800	33,800	33,150	0	650
Service industry and other	125,600	126,300	122,250	(700)	3,350
Government	62,950	63,000	61,450	(50)	1,500
Federal	8,650	8,650	8,550	0	100
State	16,800	16,850	16,800	(50)	0
Local	37,500	37,500	36,100	0	1,400
Persons involved in labor disputes (not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment Total above)	0	0	100	0	(100)

* *Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers*
** *By place of residence*
*** *By place of establishment, March 1988 benchmark*

MSA LABOR FORCE, TOTAL EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT, AND NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT AS OF THE MIDDLE OF THE MONTH

	Manchester MSA					Nashua PMSA					Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA				
	Number of Workers			Change*		Number of Workers			Change*		Number of Workers			Change*	
	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	From Previous: Month	Year	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	From Previous: Month	Year	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	From Previous: Month	Year
Labor Force Data**															
1. Civilian Labor Force	86,750	86,460	85,830	290	920	100,130	99,720	99,600	410	530	137,880	137,770	137,880	110	0
2. Unemployment	2,830	2,690	2,250	140	580	4,100	3,110	3,330	990	770	3,570	3,770	2,740	(200)	830
Percentage of Labor Force	3.3	3.1	2.6	—	—	4.1	3.1	3.3	—	—	2.6	2.7	2.0	—	—
3. Employment Total	83,920	83,770	83,480	150	440	96,030	96,610	96,270	(580)	(240)	134,310	134,000	135,140	310	(830)
4. Persons Involved in Labor Disputes	0	0	100	0	(100)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Employment by Industry***															
NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT	85,800	84,900	85,800	900	0	93,300	93,400	95,000	(100)	(1,700)	113,350	112,700	115,250	650	(1,900)
MANUFACTURING	11,550	10,850	12,150	700	(600)	35,750	35,300	36,450	450	(700)	20,350	19,300	20,800	1,050	(450)
Durable Goods	6,850	6,400	7,400	450	(550)	29,800	29,450	30,100	350	(300)	12,850	12,200	12,900	450	(250)
Machinery and electrical products	3,800	3,400	4,200	400	(400)	22,400	22,350	22,500	50	(100)					
Other durable goods	3,050	3,000	3,200	50	(150)	7,400	7,100	7,600	300	(200)					
Nondurable Goods	4,700	4,450	4,750	250	(50)	5,950	5,850	6,350	100	(400)	7,700	7,100	7,900	600	(200)
Textile mill products	1,100	1,000	1,150	100	(50)										
Other nondurable goods	3,600	3,450	3,600	150	0										
NONMANUFACTURING	74,250	74,050	73,650	200	600	57,550	58,100	58,550	(550)	(1,000)	93,000	93,400	94,450	(400)	(1,450)
Construction (including mining)	6,600	6,400	6,700	200	(100)	4,450	4,550	5,050	(100)	(600)	6,000	6,100	7,000	(100)	(1,000)
Transportation, communication, and utilities	5,600	5,600	5,250	0	350	2,800	2,850	2,700	(50)	100	3,250	3,300	3,200	(50)	50
Trade	22,950	22,900	23,450	50	(500)	21,500	21,500	22,600	0	(1,100)	32,000	31,900	31,150	100	850
Finance, insurance, and real estate	8,550	8,600	8,300	(50)	250	3,650	3,700	3,900	(50)	(250)	7,250	7,400	7,100	(150)	150
Service industry & other	22,200	22,350	21,800	(150)	400	19,350	19,550	18,800	(200)	550	22,850	23,100	22,900	(250)	(50)
Government	8,350	8,200	8,150	150	200	5,800	5,950	5,500	(150)	300	21,650	21,800	23,100	50	(1,450)
Federal	2,600	2,550	2,650	50	(50)	950	950	900	0	50	11,100	11,100	10,900	0	200
State	800	800	750	0	50	200	200	200	0	0	3,450	3,300	4,500	150	(1,050)
Local	4,950	4,850	4,750	100	200	4,650	4,800	4,400	(150)	250	7,100	7,200	7,700	(100)	(600)
Persons involved in labor disputes (not included in Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment above)	00	0	(100)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Manchester MSA -- includes the city of Manchester and the towns of Allenstown, Auburn, Bedford, Candia, Goffstown, and Hooksett.
Nashua PMSA -- includes the city of Nashua and the towns of Amherst, Brookline, Hollis, Hudson, Litchfield, Londonderry, Merrimack, Milford, Mont Vernon, and Wilton.
Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA -- includes the New Hampshire cities of Dover, Portsmouth, Rochester, and Somersworth; the New Hampshire towns of Barrington, Durham, Exeter, Farmington, Greenland, Hampton, Lee, Madbury, Milton, New Castle, Newfields, Newington, Newmarket, North Hampton, Rollinsford, Rye, and Stratham; and the Maine towns of Berwick, Eliot, Kittery, North Berwick, Ogunquit, South Berwick, Wells, and York.

* *Numbers in parentheses indicate negative numbers*
** *By place of residence*
*** *By place of establishment, March 1988 benchmark*

AVERAGE EARNINGS AND HOURS OF PRODUCTION WORKERS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES

(Establishment Survey estimates on this page are currently projected from March 1988 benchmark levels.)

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988
All Manufacturing	$412.90	$409.64	$389.42	40.6	40.2	39.9	$10.17	$10.19	$9.76
Durable goods	419.21	409.86	389.67	40.7	39.6	39.4	10.30	10.35	9.89
Lumber and wood products	331.96	316.96	307.47	38.2	36.6	37.0	8.69	8.66	8.31
Furniture and fixtures	308.50	309.06	317.02	39.2	40.4	40.8	7.87	7.65	7.77
Stone and clay products	404.62	407.35	387.89	41.8	42.3	42.3	9.68	9.63	9.17
Primary metal products	483.96	470.81	441.56	45.7	44.5	44.2	10.59	10.58	9.99
Fabricated metal products	437.61	442.88	411.35	42.2	42.3	41.3	10.37	10.47	9.96
Machinery (except electrical)	436.45	434.42	437.18	43.0	42.3	43.2	10.15	10.27	10.12
Electrical products	422.98	395.65	372.30	37.8	35.2	34.6	11.19	11.24	10.76
Miscellaneous products	346.81	332.26	325.62	39.5	38.5	40.4	8.78	8.63	8.06
Other durable goods	433.20	423.60	384.35	40.6	39.7	39.3	10.67	10.67	9.78
Nondurable goods	400.55	409.76	390.45	40.5	41.6	41.1	9.89	9.85	9.50
Food and kindred products	582.25	512.42	502.21	41.5	39.6	39.7	14.03	12.94	12.65
Textile mill products	341.02	322.56	329.25	39.7	38.4	40.3	8.59	8.40	8.17
Apparel	267.47	284.82	250.18	37.2	40.4	36.9	7.19	7.05	6.78
Paper and allied products	481.39	471.42	549.60	45.5	44.6	50.1	10.58	10.57	10.97
Printing, publishing, and allied	412.73	427.36	385.82	37.9	39.1	37.9	10.89	10.93	10.18
Leather and leather products	226.06	257.26	211.80	35.6	40.9	35.3	6.35	6.29	6.00
Footwear	227.05	259.58	211.69	35.7	41.4	35.4	6.36	6.27	5.98
Other nondurable goods	404.77	426.08	404.50	41.6	43.7	42.4	9.73	9.75	9.54

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 45.5%

Total Production Workers: 78,950

Firms Reporting: 283

Manchester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988
All Manufacturing	$426.40	$411.33	$355.12	41.0	39.1	36.2	$10.40	$10.52	$9.81
Durable goods	408.60	405.85	331.66	39.1	37.2	33.1	10.45	10.91	10.02
Machinery and electrical products	415.55	416.18	297.99	40.7	37.8	30.1	10.21	11.01	9.90
Other durable goods	398.54	393.47	379.24	36.8	36.5	37.4	10.83	10.78	10.14
Nondurable goods	453.05	418.58	395.08	43.9	41.9	41.5	10.32	9.99	9.52
Textiles and apparel	372.66	365.93	342.69	42.3	42.6	40.7	8.81	8.59	8.42
Other nondurable goods	478.63	434.72	412.00	44.4	41.6	41.7	10.78	10.45	9.88

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 47.7%

Total Production Workers: 8,550

Firms Reporting: 37

Nashua PMSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988
All Manufacturing	$494.46	$474.81	$472.83	40.2	39.9	39.7	$12.30	$11.90	$11.91
Durable goods	493.68	465.17	475.97	40.3	38.7	40.2	12.25	12.02	11.84
Machinery and electrical products	528.41	488.26	512.20	39.7	37.3	39.4	13.31	13.09	13.00
Other durable goods	424.98	416.66	396.06	41.3	41.5	42.0	10.29	10.04	9.43
Nondurable goods	497.95	509.89	458.72	39.9	44.3	37.6	12.48	11.51	12.20

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 43.4%

Total Production Workers: 18,950

Firms Reporting: 54

Portsmouth-Dover-Rochester MSA

Industry	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988	August 1989	July 1989	August 1988
All Manufacturing	$415.80	$410.44	$378.62	42.0	41.5	40.8	$9.90	$9.89	$9.28
Durable goods	448.73	436.54	400.99	42.9	41.3	40.3	10.46	10.57	9.95
Nondurable goods	362.88	366.63	344.03	40.5	41.9	41.6	8.96	8.75	8.27

Sample Percent of Production Workers: 48.0%

Total Production Workers: 14,600

Firms Reporting: 33

Consumer Price Index for August 1989

- The Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) for August rose 0.2% from the July level, the third consecutive month with this moderate increase.
- The August CPI-U increased by 4.7% from the August 1988 level. This is the lowest over-the-year change for 1989, equaling the January change. However, this percentage increase is higher than any monthly over-the-year change experienced in 1985, 1986, 1987, and 1988.
- The Food and Beverages index moderated with a 5.2% increase over the year, the smallest increase since January this year. Since July, the index increased 0.2%. Price increases for *cereals and bakery products* (+0.6%) and *meats, poultry, fish, and eggs* (+0.6%) were partially offset by declines in the prices for *fruits and vegetables* (-0.9%) and *nonalcoholic beverages* (-1.0%) over the month. *Food away from home* has increased 4.6% over the year and 0.2% since July. *Alcoholic beverages* have increased 4.4% since August 1988 and 0.4% since July this year.
- The Housing index rose 3.9% over the year and 0.2% over the month. Since July, price decreases in *fuel oil and other household fuel commodities* (-1.0%), *other renters' costs* (-1.1%), and *housefurnishings* (-0.3%) moderated increases in *owners' equivalent rent* (+0.6%), *residential rent* (+0.4%), and *housekeeping supplies* (+0.5%).
- The Apparel and Upkeep index showed a 2.1% increase since August 1988 and no increase for the past month. *Infants' and toddlers' apparel* fell 1.0% over the past month and 1.3% from the prices of a year ago. The *women's and girls'* apparel index was likewise lower this August than a year ago (-0.4%). *Footwear* fell 0.7% from the previous month but has increased 4.8% over the year. The end-of-summer clearance sales usually cause lower prices for August but these decreases show prices to be lower than recent previous years.
- The Transportation index increased 4.3% from a year ago but fell 1.0% from July. As in recent months, the price of *gasoline* exhibited volatility: it fell 3.7% from the July level. Although the increase over the past year was 8.2%, the *gasoline* index level was 91.1, still below the averaged price (indexed at 100) prevailing during the base years 1982 through 1984. Over the month, prices of *new vehicles* and *used cars* fell 0.7% in each category. The *maintenance and repairs* index increased 0.5% since July, with a 4.2% increase from a year ago.
- The Medical Care index rose 0.7% over the month; the change from a year ago was 7.7%, the largest change since December 1986. *Medical care commodities* rose 0.5% since July and 7.8% for the year. *Hospital and related services* accounted for the greater share of the 0.7% increase for the month and the 7.7% increase for the year in *medical care services*.
- The Entertainment index rose 5.5% for the year and 0.3% for the month. *Entertainment services* showed the greater share of the increase: over the year its index rose 6.7%, and over the month it was up 0.4%.
- The Other Goods and Services index rose 1.0% since July and 8.1% from August 1988. *Tobacco and smoking products* rose 0.8%, raising the yearly increase to 13.6%. Increases in the index for *personal and educational services* were 1.2% for the month and 7.0% for the year. These two components accounted for over two-thirds of the increase in the Other Goods and Services category.
- Watch for fairly stable prices overall. The Federal Reserve Board has expressed a strong priority for limiting inflation. Also consumers may be cautious at a time when the economy appears to be slowing down and the possibility of layoffs is greater; this may cause retailers to delay price increases or cut prices to clear away excess inventory.

Ricia DuBuclet

U.S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX, AUGUST 1989

	1989	1988	1987	1986
1982-84=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
August Index	124.6	119.0	114.4	109.7
Percent Change From Previous August	4.7	4.0	4.3	1.6
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
August Index	123.2	117.7	113.3	108.6
Percent Change From Previous August	4.7	3.9	4.3	1.2
1967=100				
All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)				
August Index	373.1	356.6	342.7	328.6
Percent Change From Previous August	4.6	4.1	4.3	1.6
Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W)				
August Index	367.0	350.7	337.4	323.4
Percent Change From Previous August	4.6	3.9	4.3	1.2

AUGUST CPI INDEXES BY CATEGORY

(1982-84=100, except where otherwise noted)

Categories	CPI-U Aug Index	Percent Change from: Aug 1988	Aug 1989	CPI-W Aug Index
All Items	124.6	4.7	0.2	123.2
All Items (1967=100)	373.1	4.6	0.1	367.0
Food and Beverages	125.6	5.2	0.2	125.3
Housing	124.2	3.9	0.2	122.4
Apparel and Upkeep	115.0	2.1	0.0	114.5
Transportation	114.3	4.3	-1.0	114.2
Medical Care	150.7	7.7	0.7	151.1
Entertainment	127.3	5.5	0.3	126.5
Other Goods and Services	148.7	8.1	1.0	148.8

YEARLY CHANGES IN THE CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ALL URBAN CONSUMERS (1982-84 = 100)

	1988	1987	1986
Average CPI-U Level for Year:	118.3	113.6	109.6
Percent Change from Previous Year Average:	4.1%	3.6%	1.9%
December CPI-U Level for Year:	120.5	115.4	110.5
Percent Change from Previous December:	4.4%	4.4%	1.1%

Note: The CPI data on these tables is unadjusted for seasonal fluctuations.

Source: United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

The number of *active applicants* increased by 450 from 13,075 in July to 13,505 in August. During the same period a year ago there was a decrease of 173 active applicants, going from 9,559 in July to 9,386 in August. *Job openings received* increased from 1,201 in July to 1,755 in August, a gain of 554 openings, compared to the previous year's increase of 797 (1,614 in July to 2,411 in August). In August 1989 there were eight active applicants per job opening received while in August 1988 there were four applicants per job opening.

The increases in the number of "services" (237) and "clerical" (191) job openings received from July to August 1989 were greater than the total number of services openings (193) and the total number of clerical openings (139) received during the same two months in 1988. Services openings were up by 18.3% from the previous August. The number of applicants 45 and older increased by 58.5% from 1,764 in August 1988 to 2,796 in August 1989. This increase in older applicants suggests that the business community should consider retired workers who may be looking to supplement their pensions as a potential source of valuable labor.

The older workers are often more experienced, more flexible, and more dependable than younger workers. As a supermarket manager in the Concord area said recently, older workers "know what people want", and their knowledge and maturity can be passed on to younger workers not only at entry level jobs but at more advanced levels as well. Experienced, older workers are an asset to employers imparting good job habits to younger, more technically advanced but less mature workers. Employment for older workers boosts their self-esteem keeping them active and more in the mainstream of society.

The 1983 Current Population Survey estimated that 11.4 percent of the population was 55 to 64 years of age while 14.3

ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY OCCUPATION, AUGUST 1989

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Freight & Transportation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscellaneous	Total
New Hampshire	2,495	2,573	717	1,712	169	189	950	905	2,496	519	679	99	13,505
Berlin	30	78	21	86	5	2	20	15	91	14	69	0	431
Claremont	76	116	22	53	9	6	77	34	105	27	55	3	583
Concord	323	274	74	196	18	4	104	82	261	63	44	8	1,451
Conway	33	40	9	37	2	1	11	3	66	6	5	0	213
Dover	339	371	105	182	19	23	145	155	436	70	52	10	1,907
Keene	154	178	56	140	17	12	63	44	165	27	47	5	908
Laconia	209	237	62	161	21	25	99	67	280	65	20	7	1,253
Lebanon	118	88	27	49	6	0	25	13	75	11	9	4	425
Littleton	61	91	24	54	15	2	32	31	57	8	13	4	392
Manchester	277	361	123	356	14	30	124	128	384	95	159	30	2,081
Nashua	409	387	80	187	13	32	117	165	233	71	119	18	1,831
Portsmouth	268	218	64	136	15	22	74	61	204	35	64	5	1,166
Salem	198	134	50	75	15	30	59	107	141	27	23	5	864

ACTIVE APPLICANTS BY SEX, AGE, MINORITY STATUS, AND VETERAN STATUS, AUGUST 1989

Area	Male	Female	Eligible Claimants	Minority	Veterans	Age<45	Age>45	Total Active Applicants	Unfilled Openings: Total	Unfilled Openings: 30 Days+
New Hampshire	8,097	5,408	5,542	444	2,823	10,709	2,796	13,505	1,720	873
Berlin	239	192	69	4	52	350	81	431	97	31
Claremont	362	221	150	3	132	469	114	583	67	31
Concord	936	515	535	24	415	1,118	333	1,451	110	52
Conway	132	81	95	1	42	161	52	213	64	16
Dover	1,177	730	959	38	404	1,583	324	1,907	124	42
Keene	506	402	260	16	159	742	166	908	114	52
Laconia	742	511	602	11	167	999	254	1,253	83	44
Lebanon	245	180	121	6	97	330	95	425	60	31
Littleton	199	193	87	4	54	318	74	392	121	37
Manchester	1,284	797	759	113	497	1,670	411	2,081	152	59
Nashua	1,080	751	1,003	134	374	1,382	449	1,831	78	31
Portsmouth	708	458	445	52	268	927	239	1,166	185	92
Salem	487	377	457	38	162	660	204	864	114	66
All Others									351	289

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table A96

percent were 65 or over. By 1988 estimates, these percentages had decreased to 10.2 percent and 13.2 percent for those age groups giving the appearance that the percentage of older people in the future might continue to decrease. However, the estimated population of 45 to 54 year-olds increased from 12.1 percent of the total population in 1983 to 12.6 percent in 1988, and the 35 to 44 year old group increased from 17.0 percent of the total population in 1983 to 20.3 percent in 1988. Overall, the share of the population age 35 and older increased by 1.5 percentage points between 1983 and 1988. In the labor force, which is that portion of the population which is 16 years of age or older and employed or activity seeking employment, the 35 year old and older group constituted 46.9 percent in 1983 and 49.8 percent in 1988. So the age 35 and older group has increased both in relation to the total population and in relation to the total labor force. Demographers expect this trend to continue for the next ten to fifteen years as the "baby boomers" age.

The occupational group showing the greatest number of active applicants was the "professional technical and managerial group" (223), with Salem showing the greatest increase (49) and five other offices having sizeable increases (25 to 47). Manchester (-17) was the only office reporting a decrease in the number of active applicants for this group. "Services occupations" registered an increase in job openings (98), with Manchester (60) and Keene (24) accounting for most of the increase. "Clerical" active applicants increased by 76 from the previous month, with Dover leading the way with 58 additional active applicants. Laconia active clerical applicants increased by 27, while Manchester had a decrease of 66 between July and August. "Structural occupations" had an increase of 68 active applicants between

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY OCCUPATION, AUGUST 1989

Area	Professional, Technical, & Managerial	Clerical	Sales	Services	Farm	Processing	Machine Trades	Benchwork	Structural Work	Motor Freight & Transportation	Packaging & Material Handling	Miscellaneous	Total
New Hampshire	128	442	100	400	28	16	104	85	245	75	131	1	1,755
Berlin	1	16	8	21	2	0	4	3	5	3	66	0	129
Claremont	7	160	3	11	3	2	9	2	9	7	2	0	215
Concord	13	22	1	22	2	1	8	5	23	5	2	0	104
Conway	1	8	10	29	3	0	4	0	7	5	1	0	68
Dover	15	18	4	27	3	1	13	22	34	6	1	0	144
Keene	4	75	5	27	0	0	7	8	19	11	13	0	169
Laconia	8	15	10	39	5	3	7	6	14	8	1	1	117
Lebanon	2	7	10	18	0	1	3	2	25	7	6	0	81
Littleton	6	25	7	64	3	2	11	6	18	2	4	0	148
Manchester	15	23	12	41	2	0	14	10	41	8	15	0	181
Nashua	6	12	0	21	1	3	12	9	11	2	3	0	80
Portsmouth	15	40	14	34	2	2	10	5	33	8	14	0	177
Salem	2	21	16	16	2	1	1	7	5	3	3	0	77
All Others	33	0	0	30	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	65

JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED BY INDUSTRY, AUGUST 1989

Area	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Construction & Mining	Manufacturing	Transportation, Communication & Utilities	Trade	Finance Insurance, Real Estate	Services	Public Administration	Total	Government Openings in Columns 1-8*
New Hampshire	15	211	351	41	492	68	523	54	1,755	82
Berlin	0	4	72	1	22	3	24	3	129	2
Claremont	3	7	22	9	158	4	11	1	215	2
Concord	0	32	24	2	13	6	15	12	104	12
Conway	0	8	5	2	20	4	29	0	68	3
Dover	2	19	46	2	25	2	47	1	144	13
Keene	1	13	27	2	36	7	79	4	169	6
Laconia	2	18	21	0	27	6	43	0	117	4
Lebanon	1	18	9	8	23	0	17	5	81	6
Littleton	2	17	28	1	28	17	54	1	148	3
Manchester	2	33	33	1	41	8	54	9	181	11
Nashua	1	6	33	1	11	4	23	1	80	1
Portsmouth	1	30	20	12	54	3	46	11	177	11
Salem	0	5	8	0	31	4	27	2	77	4
All Others	0	1	3	0	3	0	54	4	65	4

Source: Employment Security Automated Reporting System - Table 10

** This column includes Job Openings received from government-owned-and-operated employers in all types of industries. It consists of numbers that are included in the first eight columns.*

July and August 1989 compared with 54 between July and August 1988. "Packaging and material handling" increased by 40 active applicants between those months in 1989 and 26 for the same two months in 1988.

"Clerical" job openings received in August led all occupations. They increased by 237 over the previous month with 150 of them the Claremont Local Office. Many of the Claremont office clerical job openings were as a result of mass recruitment of cashier-checkers for new stores opening in the Claremont area.

The "services" industry had the next largest increase of job openings received over the previous month (191) with seven offices having an increase of 14 to 24 new job openings. "Packaging and material handling" had an increase of 83, while "structural occupations" showed little change this year but had an increase of 159 between July and August of 1988.

Oliver Northcott

WEEKLY CLAIMS FILED DURING AUGUST 1989
CLASSIFIED BY LOCAL OFFICE

Area	U. C. Unemployment Compensation		State Workers (Only)		U. C. Local Government		Ex-Military Servicemen (UCX Only)		U.C. Federal Employees No U.I.	
	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims	Initial Claims	Continued Claims
All Offices	4,309	21,723	7	19	7	13	24	12	7	24
Berlin	70	458	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Claremont	157	603	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Concord	485	2,444	4	6	4	0	1	1	1	2
Conway	119	477	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Dover	542	2,714	0	2	0	0	10	3	1	1
Keene	160	882	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	0
Laconia	376	1,781	1	5	0	0	0	2	0	2
Lebanon	68	358	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
Littleton	72	534	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Manchester	974	4,416	0	0	0	0	3	0	2	5
Nashua	539	2,658	1	1	1	0	3	0	1	4
Portsmouth	282	1,905	0	2	0	0	4	3	1	7
Salem	214	1,047	0	0	1	7	0	0	0	0
Liable Interstate	251	1,446	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	2

The average payment for a week of total unemployment: $128.84

The Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance at the End of the Month: $200,335,997.80

Net contributions received during the month: $1,852,310.15

Net benefits paid during the month: $2,504,862.62

Interest Received: $4,180,127.43

Notes of Interest:

POPULATION BY STATE, IN THOUSANDS, 1984-1988

State	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
Maine	1,156	1,164	1,171	1,186	1,205
New Hampshire	978	998	1,027	1,056	1,085
Vermont	530	535	540	547	557
Massachusetts	5,795	5,823	5,835	5,856	5,889
Rhode Island	960	967	975	986	993
Connecticut	3,156	3,175	3,194	3,212	3,233
New York	17,726	17,767	17,805	17,835	17,909
New Jersey	7,517	7,568	7,625	7,674	7,721
Pennsylvania	11,892	11,865	11,895	11,942	12,001
Ohio	10,770	10,774	10,778	10,816	10,855
Indiana	5,491	5,500	5,503	5,530	5,556
Illinois	11,525	11,539	11,553	11,584	11,614
Michigan	9,059	9,088	9,143	9,205	9,240
Wisconsin	4,763	4,775	4,784	4,807	4,855
Minnesota	4,163	4,191	4,213	4,244	4,307
Iowa	2,893	2,873	2,840	2,823	2,834
Missouri	5,004	5,036	5,066	5,107	5,141
North Dakota	687	685	678	671	667
South Dakota	705	708	708	709	713
Nebraska	1,605	1,605	1,598	1,594	1,602
Kansas	2,441	2,448	2,459	2,475	2,495
Delaware	618	626	637	648	660
Maryland	4,347	4,391	4,461	4,536	4,622
Dist. Columbia	624	623	625	621	617
Virginia	5,635	5,704	5,798	5,914	6,015
West Virginia	1,952	1,936	1,917	1,898	1,876
North Carolina	6,167	6,258	6,327	6,409	6,489
South Carolina	3,296	3,333	3,381	3,426	3,470
Georgia	5,845	5,975	6,101	6,227	6,342
Florida	11,053	11,367	11,688	12,022	12,335
Kentucky	3,720	3,724	3,722	3,723	3,727
Tennessee	4,728	4,766	4,800	4,855	4,895
Alabama	3,991	4,021	4,051	4,084	4,102
Mississippi	2,599	2,613	2,624	2,624	2,620
Arkansas	2,346	2,360	2,371	2,388	2,395
Louisiana	4,462	4,484	4,497	4,448	4,408
Oklahoma	3,312	3,302	3,300	3,259	3,242
Texas	16,083	16,382	16,682	16,781	16,841
Montana	823	825	817	809	805
Idaho	999	1,005	1,003	1,000	1,003
Wyoming	513	509	507	490	479
Colorado	3,189	3,232	3,265	3,293	3,301
New Mexico	1,426	1,450	1,477	1,496	1,507
Arizona	3,048	3,161	3,280	3,400	3,489
Utah	1,623	1,644	1,664	1,680	1,690
Nevada	916	939	966	1,006	1,054
Washington	4,349	4,407	4,461	4,542	4,648
Oregon	2,679	2,688	2,703	2,723	2,767
California	25,776	26,353	26,997	27,653	28,314
Alaska	505	521	531	524	524
Hawaii	1,036	1,050	1,064	1,082	1,098
United States	236,477	238,736	241,107	243,419	245,807

PERCENT CHANGE IN POPULATION

	from previous year				for period
State	1985	1986	1987	1988	1984 - 1988
Maine	0.7%	0.6%	1.3%	1.6%	4.2%
New Hampshire	2.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.7%	10.9%
Vermont	0.9%	0.9%	1.3%	1.8%	5.1%
Massachusetts	0.5%	0.2%	0.4%	0.6%	1.6%
Rhode Island	0.7%	0.8%	1.1%	0.7%	3.4%
Connecticut	0.6%	0.6%	0.6%	0.7%	2.4%
New York	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	1.0%
New Jersey	0.7%	0.8%	0.6%	0.6%	2.7%
Pennsylvania	-0.2%	0.3%	0.4%	0.5%	0.9%
Ohio	0.0%	0.0%	0.4%	0.4%	0.8%
Indiana	0.2%	0.1%	0.5%	0.5%	1.2%
Illinois	0.1%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%
Michigan	0.3%	0.6%	0.7%	0.4%	2.0%
Wisconsin	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	1.0%	1.9%
Minnesota	0.7%	0.5%	0.7%	1.5%	3.5%
Iowa	-0.7%	-1.1%	-0.6%	0.4%	-2.0%
Missouri	0.6%	0.6%	0.8%	0.7%	2.7%
North Dakota	-0.3%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-0.6%	-2.9%
South Dakota	0.4%	0.0%	0.1%	0.6%	1.1%
Nebraska	0.0%	-0.4%	-0.3%	0.5%	-0.2%
Kansas	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.8%	2.2%
Delaware	1.3%	1.8%	1.7%	1.9%	6.8%
Maryland	1.0%	1.6%	1.7%	1.9%	6.3%
Dist. Columbia	-0.2%	0.3%	-0.6%	-0.6%	-1.1%
Virginia	1.2%	1.6%	2.0%	1.7%	6.7%
West Virginia	-0.8%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-1.2%	-3.9%
North Carolina	1.5%	1.1%	1.3%	1.2%	5.2%
South Carolina	1.1%	1.4%	1.3%	1.3%	5.3%
Georgia	2.2%	2.1%	2.1%	1.8%	8.5%
Florida	2.8%	2.8%	2.9%	2.6%	11.6%
Kentucky	0.1%	-0.1%	0.0%	0.1%	0.2%
Tennessee	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	0.8%	3.5%
Alabama	0.8%	0.7%	0.8%	0.4%	2.8%
Mississippi	0.5%	0.4%	0.0%	-0.2%	0.8%
Arkansas	0.6%	0.5%	0.7%	0.3%	2.1%
Louisiana	0.5%	0.3%	-1.1%	-0.9%	-1.2%
Oklahoma	-0.3%	-0.1%	-1.2%	-0.5%	-2.1%
Texas	1.9%	1.8%	0.6%	0.4%	4.7%
Montana	0.2%	-1.0%	-1.0%	-0.5%	-2.2%
Idaho	0.6%	-0.2%	-0.3%	0.3%	0.4%
Wyoming	-0.8%	-0.4%	-3.4%	-2.2%	-6.6%
Colorado	1.3%	1.0%	0.9%	0.2%	3.5%
New Mexico	1.7%	1.9%	1.3%	0.7%	5.7%
Arizona	3.7%	3.8%	3.7%	2.6%	14.5%
Utah	1.3%	1.2%	1.0%	0.6%	4.1%
Nevada	2.5%	2.9%	4.1%	4.8%	15.1%
Washington	1.3%	1.2%	1.8%	2.3%	6.9%
Oregon	0.3%	0.6%	0.7%	1.6%	3.3%
California	2.2%	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	9.8%
Alaska	3.2%	1.9%	-1.3%	0.0%	3.8%
Hawaii	1.4%	1.3%	1.7%	1.5%	6.0%
United States	0.96%	0.99%	0.96%	0.96%	3.9%

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

STATES RANKED BY PERCENT CHANGE IN RESIDENT POPULATION BETWEEN 1984 AND 1988

	State	1984 - 1988		State	1984 - 1988
1	Nevada	15.1%	28	Connecticut	2.4%
2	Arizona	14.5%	29	Kansas	2.2%
3	Florida	11.6%	30	Arkansas	2.1%
4	New Hampshire	10.9%	31	Michigan	2.0%
5	California	9.8%	32	Wisconsin	1.9%
6	Georgia	8.5%	33	Massachusetts	1.6%
7	Washington	6.9%	34	Indiana	1.2%
8	Delaware	6.8%	35	South Dakota	1.1%
9	Virginia	6.7%	36	New York	1.0%
10	Maryland	6.3%	37	Pennsylvania	0.9%
11	Hawaii	6.0%	38	Mississippi	0.8%
12	New Mexico	5.7%	39	Ohio	0.8%
13	South Carolina	5.3%	40	Illinois	0.8%
14	North Carolina	5.2%	41	Idaho	0.4%
15	Vermont	5.1%	42	Kentucky	0.2%
16	Texas	4.7%	43	Nebraska	-0.2%
17	Maine	4.2%	44	District of Columbia	-1.1%
18	Utah	4.1%	45	Louisiana	-1.2%
19	Alaska	3.8%	46	Iowa	-2.0%
20	Tennessee	3.5%	47	Oklahoma	-2.1%
21	Colorado	3.5%	48	Montana	-2.2%
22	Minnesota	3.5%	49	North Dakota	-2.9%
23	Rhode Island	3.4%	50	West Virginia	-3.9%
24	Oregon	3.3%	51	Wyoming	-6.6%
25	Alabama	2.8%			
26	Missouri	2.7%			
27	New Jersey	2.7%		United States	3.9%

Source: United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census